

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-14 DRC-01

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R 110911Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3569

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

S E C R E T SANAA 708

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AG, EG, SY, SA, KU, TS, MU, YE, YS, LY

SUBJ: ARAB LEAGUE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE DHOFAR REBELLION

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

1. ON APRIL 11, FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM TUNIS
CONFERENCE OF ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND VISITS
TO RIYADH AND ABU DHABI, YARG PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER
MUHAMMAD NU'MAN DISCUSSED WITH ME HIS INITIATIVE IN
TUNIS WHICH HAD RESULTED IN ARAB LEAGUE DECISION FORM
COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF ALGERIA, TUNIS, LIBYA, EGYPT,
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SYRIA AND KUWAIT TO INVESTIGATE DHOFAR REBELLION.

2. NU'MAN SAID HIS OBJECTIVE IN FLOATING TUNIS PROPOSAL FOR ARAB LEAGUE COMMITTEE WAS OBVIOUS: DEMONSTRATE THAT DHOFAR REBELLION WOULD COLLAPSE WITHOUT PDRY SUPPORT AND THREATEN TO EXPOSE THIS IF PDRY DIDN'T GET OUT OF THE GAME AND AGREE TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS.

3. NU'MAN COMMENTED THAT IN TUNIS, PDRY FONMIN MU'TI HAD NOT MADE TOO MUCH OF A FUSS OVER COMMITTEE PROPOSAL. IN CONVERSATION WITH KUWAIT FONVIN SABAH HE HAD DENIED PDRY SUPPORT OF DHOFAR BEBELS. SABAH HAD SAID THAT IT THIS TRUE, PDRY SHOULD POVE ITS GOOD FAITH BY HELPING TO END REBELLION AND REACH ACCOMMODATION WITH OMAN. ON OTHER HAND, SAUDI MIN STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAQQAF HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT FAVOR ARAB LEAGUE INQUIRY INTO DHOFAR REBELLION, FEARING THIS COULD END IN GIVING LEGITIMACY TO REBELS.

4. CONCERNED ABOUT SAG'S OPPOSTION, NU'MAN HAD FELT IT DESIRABLE VISIT RIYADH AFTER TUNIS. (NU'MAN COMMENTED THAT IT IS CHARACTERISTIC OF SAG TO APPROACH ANY POLITICAL INNOVATION NEGATIVELY BUT THAT WITH PATIENCE IT CAN USUALLY BE BROUGHT AROUND.) IN RIYADH, NU'MAN HAD MET FAISAL, FAHD, SULTAN, NA'IF AND RASHID PHARAON. WITH EACH HE HAD SPOKEN IN BROAD TERMS ABOUT THREAT POSED BY PDRY TO STABILITY OF PENINSULA. IN THE FALL OF 1972, SAG HAD BACKED THE USE OF FORCE IN EFFORT DISLODGE PDRY. THIS APPROACH HAD NOT WORKED THAN OR SINCE. ACCORDINGLY, YARG TRYING DIPLOMACY TO ALTER PDRY POLICIES. PROPOSAL FOR ARAB LEAGUE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE DHOFAR WAS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THIS DIPLOMATIC APPROACH. SAG COULD CONTRIBUTE TO POSITIVE RESULT OF COMMITTEE WORK IF IT USED INFLUENCE WITH STATES WHICH FORMED COMMITTEE TO HAVE THEM APPOINT HIGHLY QUALIFIED REPRESENTATIVES.

5. NU'MAN FELT THAT AS RESULT HIS CONVERSATIONS IN RIYADH SAG LEADERS HAD BEEN GENERALLY MOLLIFIED. FAISAL HAD MADE NO SPECIFIC COMMENT EXCEPT THAT ALGERIA COULD BE TRUSTED, KUWAIT COULD NOT. FAHD, IN LONG, PRIVATE
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TALK, HAD SHOWN A NEW SENSE OF AUTHORITY. HE HAD SPOKEN WITH A BROAD WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING OF PENIN- SULA AND GULF AFFAIRS. SULTAN, CHARACTERISTICALLY, HAD CONTINUED TO SNAP, PARTICULARLY ABOUT KUWAIT FOR ITS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PDRY, ITS TOLERANCE OF OPEN PFLOAD FUND RAISING IN KUWAIT, ITS PRETENSIONS TO MEDIATORY ROLE BETWEEN PDRY AND GULF STATES, ETC.

6. IN ANSWER MY QUESTION AS TO WHERE WE COULD EXPECT ARAB LEAGUE COMMITTEE ACTIVITY GO FROM HERE, NU'MAN SIAD NO DECISION ON TIMING REACHED IN TUNIS. IT IMPORTANT MOVE QUICKLY TO SUSTAIN MOMENTUM GENERATED BY AGREEMENT AT CONFERENE. FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS SHOULD BE DESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVES. THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISCUSSION OF THIS IN TUNIS. NU'MAN HAD SUGGESTED TO SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM THAT HE APPOINT SYRIAN AMBASSADOR IN ABU DHABI, MUNID AL-RIFAI, WHO FAMILIAR WITH BOTH YEMENS FROM PREVIOUS SERVICE AS ARAB LEAGUE RESPRESENTATIVE TO YEMEN UNITY TALKS. HE HOPED KUWAITIS WOULD SELECT AHMAD AS-SAQQAF, DIRECTOR OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO GULF AND YEMENS, FOR SAME REASON. EGYPTIAN WOULD BE KEY. AMBASSADOR IZZAT SULEIMAN, A FOREIGN MINISTRY ADVISER TO SADAT ON ARAB AFFAIRS, WOULD BE IDEAL SINCE HE DECISIVE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT PENINSULA AFFAIRS. IT TO BE HOPED SADAT WOULD CHOOSE THE RIGHT MAN AND PUSH ARAB LEAGUE SEC GEN MAHMOUD RIAD TO GET COMMITTEE WORK STARTED.

7. NU'MAN INFORMED ME THAT ON INSTRUCTIONS OF PRESIDENT IRYANI HE CALLING IN AMBASSADORS OF ALL STATES WHICH WERE MEMBERS OF DHOFAR INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE TO REQUEST THEIR GOVERNMENTS MOVE SOONEST ON DESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVES. TELEGRAPHIC INSTRUCTIONS ALSO GOING TO YEMENI AMBASSADORS IN CAPITALS.
CRAWFORD

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